Science Study Guide

**Vocabulary:**

*Ecosystem:* all the living and nonliving things in an environment and the

many ways they interact

*Population:* all the members of one species that live within an area of an ecosystem

*Community:* different populations that interact with each other in the same area

*Niche:* the specific role an organism has in its habitat

*Herbivores:* consumers that get energy by eating only plants

*Carnivores:* consumers that eat only animals

*Omnivores:* consumers that eat both plants and animals

*Decomposers:* organisms that live and grow by breaking down the waste and remains of dead plants and animals to obtain nutrients

**Key Points:**

* When an animal eats something it takes in energy and matter.
* The nonliving parts of an ecosystem include air, water, soil, sunlight, climate, and landforms.
* An example of an organism’s niche is the type of food it eats, how it gets its food, and which other organisms use it for food.
* The first link in any food chain is the sun. The sun is where the energy in ecosystems originally comes from.
* Algae are producers in wetland ecosystems.
* Food webs are a system of overlapping food chains. Energy in a food chain flows in one direction.
* Producers make their own food. Examples of producers are plants.
* Consumers eat other living things. Examples of consumers are herbivores, omnivores, carnivores, and scavengers.
* Scavengers and decomposers return minerals and nutrients to the ecosystem.
* Food is stored in a refrigerator because food decays more slowly in colder temperatures.
* The driest ecosystem is a desert. Some plants and animals have adapted to the limited water supply.
* A tundra is a cold, dry region. The ground beneath the surface is frozen all year long.
* Forests get more rain than grasslands. A rain forest supports thousands of species of plants and animals.
* Grasslands are covered with tall grasses. They receive a medium amount of rain.